JAN 0 9 2004 WOLLD

306.38372X00

(8 TRANS IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

MEIER et al

Serial No.:

09/529,383

Filed:

April 13, 2000

For:

Method For Increasing The Wear Resistance

Of A Work Piece

Art Unit:

3644

Examiner:

T. Nguyen

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop: Amendment (Fee) Commissioner For Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 9, 2004

GROUPS 3600

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed September 9, 2003, in connection with the above-identified application. Amendments to the application are listed below and are set forth on the following pages.

Amendments to the Claims;

Remarks are included following the amendments.

01/12/2004 JADD01

00000090 09529383

01 FC:1251

110.00 OP